

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an apparatus for dispensing adhesive tape strips or the like ~~according to the preamble of claim 1.~~ --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A device of such type is known e.g. from US-A-5'207'860. This device comprises a lever with at least two arced toothed racks meshing with various gear wheels. It contains a great number of individual parts. The lever is rotatably supported on an axle and is connected with the racks by means of pins. By means of a relatively complicated gear arrangement and various tension and flat springs a cutting device is operated. Due to the one-sided support arrangement of the racks at the side of the lever a slight momentum is generated acting onto the lever axle in such a manner that jamming of the racks during the downward motion of the lever is not excluded. Furthermore the device described above is relatively voluminous and thus is clumsy in practical operation. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 17 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an objective of the present invention to create an apparatus for dispensing adhesive tape consisting of substantially fewer parts and permitting easier handling. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 28 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Further advantages of the present invention are explained in the dependent patent claims and in the following description, in which the present invention is described in more detail with reference to a design example illustrated in the schematic drawings. ~~It shows: --~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 19 and ending on page 3, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the Figures 1 and 2 an adhesive tape dispenser 1 is shown comprising a housing 2 with two housing walls 3, 3' arranged essentially parallel to each other, of which merely the outline 4 of the front housing wall 3 is visible. Furthermore a circumferentially extending connecting member 5 is provided between the two housing walls 3, 3'. In the two housing walls 3, 3' a lever 8 is supported on each side on a rotational axle 7, which levers consist of two L-shaped parts 9, 9' (only the front part 9 being visible) and of an upper connecting member 10. On its side facing the housing 2 lever 8 is provided with a cam 11 serving for transporting the strip of adhesive tape. In the two L-shaped parts 9, 9' a respective pin 12 is provided engaging a short ~~sliding guide plate~~ guide groove 13 of a triangular rack 14 with a ~~portion~~ toothed portion 15 over a circular sector. In the lower corner 16 of rack 14 a pin 18 is mounted, which engages a longer ~~sliding guide plate~~ arched guide groove 20 in the housing wall 3. A further toothed rack 14' of the same type, not visible here, is provided on the opposite housing wall 3'. The lever 8 is held in its starting position shown in Fig. 1 by a U-shaped tensioning spring, not shown in detail here. This tensioning spring on one hand side presses one leg against the underside of the L-shaped part 9 and its other leg rests against a protrusion of the housing wall 3. Of course also other types of pressure springs could be applied such as flat springs, spiral springs or similar designs of springs could be provided for this purpose. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 28 and ending on page 4, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In Fig. 3 the path of the adhesive tape 45 is indicated (dashed line). The two transporting rolls 22 and 23 in this arrangement are rotated clockwise by the toothed rack 14 via the gear wheels 27 and 28 in such a manner that the adhesive tape 45 is folded longitudinally by the folding roll 47 arranged between the two transporting rolls 22 and 23. The second transporting roll 23 in this arrangement is provided with two circumferential grooves 48 (Fig. 4) in such a manner that at its centre a circular disk 49 is formed. The first transporting roll is provided with only one circumferential groove 51 which matches with the circular disk 49 which encloses it in a slightly overlapping manner. The folding roll 47 is provided with a ring bulge 52 in its centre zone in such a manner that the adhesive ~~tape 20~~ tape 45 is folded in longitudinal direction into a V-shape. In Fig. 3 the support member 24 is well visible, which is laid out as an insert to be taken up in the housing 2. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In Fig. 5 the transporting process is ~~visualised~~ visualized by means of the two transporting rolls 22 and 23. In Fig. 5a the lever 8 is in its starting position, i.e. it is pressed upward by the tensioning spring (arrow A). The toothed rack 14 in this arrangement is not engaging the gears 27 and 28 of the two transporting rolls 22 and 23. The toothed rack 14 here is shown partially with dashed lines as the L-shaped lateral part 9 of the lever 8 is located closer to the housing wall 3 (not shown in this Figure). If lever 8 is now pressed down (Fig. 5b), the toothed rack 14 with the help of the ~~sliding guide plates~~ guide grooves 13 and 20 is brought into engagement with the two gears 27 and 28 in such a manner that the transporting rolls 22 and 23 are rotated clockwise and that the adhesive tape 45 is transported. When lever 8 is pressed down completely, the toothed rack 14 still engages the gears 27 and 28. Only after lever 8 is released, and moves upward under the action of the tension spring, rack 14 is disengaged from the gears 27 and 28, i.e. the gears 27 and 28 come to a standstill, and the adhesive tape is not transported

further. During the downward movement of lever 8 from its uppermost position (Fig. 5a) to its lowermost position (Fig. 5c) a strip of adhesive tape of exactly defined length thus is transported by the transporting rolls 22 and 23. Lever 8 also can be released already at an intermediate position (Fig. 5b) in such a manner that the toothed rack 14 is disengaged from the gears 27 and 28. If lever 8 is pressed down again, a correspondingly longer strip of adhesive tape is generated. By repeated lever operation thus a strip of any length desired can be obtained. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31 and ending on page 5, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- In Fig. 6 the cutting operation is ~~visualised~~ visualized in further detail. The toothed rack 14' is moved downward in similar manner as rack 14 by lever 8. As indicated in Fig. 6 rack 14' is provided with teeth only in its lower zone, which can engage the gear wheel 38. In the lowermost position of the rack 14' (Fig. 6c) its teeth still engage gear 38 in such a manner that the tensioning spring 42 is tensioned fully. If now lever 8 is released, the gear 38 with the cam 37 keeps rotating clockwise, and the lever arm 32 with the knife 33 of triangular shape jumps upward in such a manner that a strip of the adhesive tape 45 is severed (Fig. 6d). As the adhesive tape previously has been folded in V-shape, the strip severed presents a straight line cut. If now lever 8 is released at an intermediate position (Fig. 6b), the lever arm 32 cannot jump back as the gear 38 and thus the cam 37 are rotated back in such a manner that no strip is severed yet. Thus owing to the co-operation of the transporting rolls 22 and 23 and the non-activated knife 33, the length of the strip exceeding a minimum length (one beat) can be determined at will. As explained already with reference to Fig. 5, the toothed rack 14' also can be provided with teeth over its full length. The racks 14 and 14' on the other hand also can be formed as a unit member with the L-shaped parts 9 and 9' in which arrangement ~~then the pin 12 and the shifting-guide plate 13 are dispensed with~~ guide groove 13 are omitted. --